

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 25, 27-29, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43 and 48-50 are being cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 51-68 are being added. Support for these new claims can be found throughout the specification and drawings. No new matter is being added.

This amendment deletes and adds claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 51-68 are now pending in this application.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 25, 27-29, 37, 39, 40, 42, 43 and 48-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,222,157 to Yoneda et al. (“Yoneda”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,453,127 to Wood et al. (“Wood”). Insofar as this rejection may be applied to the claims as amended, applicants respectfully traverse for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 51 recites:

An image forming apparatus comprising:
receiving section configured to receive a plurality of pages of image data transmitted through a communication line and to receive a partial print request signal requesting that only a part of the image data be printed; and
storage section configured to store the image data and the partial print request-signal, both received at the receiving section;

first printing section configured to perform a trial print on a paper sheet, in response to the partial print request signal stored in the storage section, a part of the image data and an image indicating that the trial printed data is a part of the received plurality of pages of image data; and

second printing section configured to print all pages of the image data stored in the storage section, upon receiving an all-page print instruction after

the first printing section has printed the part of the image data, said all-page print instruction demanding that the image data be printed in a specific fashion.

Yoneda and Wood fail to disclose or suggest at least the above italicized feature of claim 51 in the context of that claim of a “first printing section configured to perform a trial print on a paper sheet, in response to the partial print request signal stored in the storage section, a part of the image data and an image indicating that the trial printed data is a part of the received plurality of pages of image data.”

In claim 51, the first printing section is configured to print on the paper sheet both the part of the image as well as an image indicating that the trial printed data is a part of the received plurality of pages of image data. For example, in one non-limiting example as shown in FIG. 4, in addition to the part of the image, “THIS IS A TRIAL PRINT” is printed on the paper sheet. This printing on the paper sheet shows the user that this is a trial print. In this way, the printed paper sheet is able to show the user that a part from all pages of the printed data is a partial printing for trial printing in order to determine if there are any failures to the printing settings or printing functions. By having this printed on the recorded media, i.e., the paper, the consumption of paper due to printing mistakes can be prevented. By checking a part of the printed results, the consumption of paper can ultimately be reduced and a reliable printed result for all pages can be obtained.

In contrast to claim 51, nowhere does Yoneda nor Wood disclose the feature of a “first printing section configured to perform a trial print on a paper sheet, in response to the partial print request signal stored in the storage section, a part of the image data and an image indicating that the trial printed data is a part of the received plurality of pages of image data.” For example, while Yoneda discloses a partial print button in FIG. 12, which the Patent Office on page 4 of the Office Action equates with the trial printing button, nowhere does

Yoneda disclose that in its partial print, an image is printed to a paper where the image includes “an image indicating that the trial printed data is a part of the received plurality of pages of image data.” That is, in the partial printing of Yoneda, there is no printing on a paper an image such as “THIS IS A TRIAL PRINT” or “THIS IS A PARTIAL PRINT”, for example. Wood was cited for disclosing other features of the claims, but fails to cure the deficiencies of Yoneda.

Independent claims 57 and 63 have features corresponding to those discussed above with respect to claim 51, and are patentable for analogous reasons.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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